



Gold Coast Gaels are being sponsored by the Darcy Arms hotel and players Daniel O'Halloran (left) and Paraic Kavanagh, with Darcy's general manager Shanan Hammelin, hope to boost membership.

Picture: RICHARD GOSLING

Irish eyes are smiling at Gaelic footy team deal

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THEY started off as a couple of expatriate Irishmen yearning for a slice of home.

But after less than two years as a competitive Gaelic football club, the Gold Coast Gaels are planning an expansion off the back of a new

sponsorship deal with Surfers Paradise Irish pub the Darcy Arms.

Treasurer Daragh Murphy said the sponsorship would lift the club profile.

"We want to double our player numbers by attracting Australian rules players or Australian-based players to complement our expats," Mr Murphy said.

The Gold Coast Gaels was established in 2013 by Daniel O'Halloran and Joe Maccauley, Irishmen passionate about introducing their national sport to locals.

When the club started Joe arranged for his brother, Irish Gaelic football superstar Michael Darragh Macauley, to play an exhibition match on the Coast.

The Robina club supports a team of 28 in the Queensland GAA tournament.

Gaelic football is often compared to Aussie rules but Mr Murphy said the Irish game was probably easier for amateur sportspeople.

"It's less intense in terms of the training and playing style ... more compatible for a busy working life," he said.